

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 29 August 2024

Matters of Discussion

1. Review of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO) / Regulations

Progress of the review:

- Implementation of the amended DGO, Cap. 295 and its subsidiary legislation

The amendment of Schedule 2 of the Dangerous Goods (Application & Exemption) Regulation 2012, Cap. 295E and Code of Practice for Control of Dangerous Goods on Land (CoP) were in progress. The effective date of the amendment would be 1.1.2025 and the revised CoP would be published in the gazette accordingly.

The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code was updated in every two years. The new version of IMDG Code (42-24 edition), which had been approved by the International Maritime Organization, would be published in January 2025 and came into force on 1.1.2026. The amendments in this new IMDG Code were being reviewed by the Fire Services Department (FSD). To cope with the latest international practice, amendments would be proposed and made to the Schedule 2 Dangerous Goods list and CoP accordingly in the next legislative amendment exercise and the target effective date would be 1.1.2026.

- Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulation 2012 [DG(S)R 2012]

Two legislative amendments to DG(S)R 2012, Cap. 295F were still in progress.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

From May to August 2024, the Dangerous Goods Enforcement Team (DGET) of FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 146 PFS during which fire safety advice was given to the PFS operators.

The licensees and operators of PFS should caution individuals within

the PFS against using any equipment that might potentially generate sparks within the hazardous area of the licensed store. Subsequent to the issuance of the updated “Addendum to Fire Safety Requirements for PFS” to the licensees, operators of PFS were reminded to update their operation manuals (OM) accordingly. Officers of Dangerous Goods Control Division of FSD would inspect and check the updated OM periodically.

3. Enforcement Actions Related to Over-Storage of Dangerous Goods

From May to August 2024, DGET had conducted 274 surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next table-top exercise on the Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme – Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident was scheduled for 16.1.2025.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

From May to August 2024, FSD had carried out 683 surprise inspections to approved DG stores. The condition of most of the DG stores inspected was satisfactory. Recent incidents involving gas leakage were shared with Members. Licensees and operators were reminded to ensure their DG stores and corresponding facilities were always operated safely.

6. Proposed Amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (GSO), Cap. 51

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department was working on the legislative amendments to regulate the use of hydrogen as a fuel under GSO, Cap. 51.

7. Retrofitting Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Facilities at Existing PFS

Detailed proposals of retrofitting EV charging facilities at existing PFS

were submitted by PFS operators and being vetted by various Government Departments including FSD. Upon the fulfillment of the requirements set by all Government Departments, the proposals would be endorsed and retrofitting works could be commenced.

8. Control of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry

In line with the Government's policy to support the research and development of microelectronics in Hong Kong, the existing regulatory standards that govern the storage and use of special gases had been revisited by the FSD. A new application guideline, "A Guide to Application for Storage and Use Licence of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry" (the Guide), would be formulated to enhance the safety measures for storage and use of special gases. The Guide aligned with the best practices followed by the global industry and ensured the smooth operation of microelectronics industry.

9. Dangerous Goods Vehicle Used for Storage

Dangerous Goods Enforcement Division (DGED) of FSD had conducted enforcement operations against dangerous goods vehicle (DGV) being used as mobile DG store in various districts and legal actions would be taken against owners of DGVs who might have contravened the DGO. DGED would strengthen the education and publicity effort to educate the owners of licensed DGVs about the safety implications of using DGV as mobile DG store.